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Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 04898 210452Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 DHA-05 /064 W
----------050612 210503Z /13
O 201730Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8883
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PINS, SF
SUBJECT: STEVE BIKO'S DEATH: SITREP AS OF 1600 SEPTEMBER 20

REF: PRETORIA 4866

1. BOTH PRO AND ANTI-SAG WHITE SOUTH AFRICANS HAVE BEGUN TO FOCUS ON HOW THE SAG WILL HANDLE THE BIKO AFFAIR AS THE CABINET TAKES UP THE ISSUE AT ITS SEPTEMBER 20 MEETING IN PRETORIA. PRESS HAD PLACED BIKO AFFAIR ON PAR WITH SHARPESVILLE AND JUNE 16 SOWETO UPRISING IN TERMS OF DAMAGE TO SOUTH AFRICAN IMAGE ABROAD.

2. MEANWHILE WHITE AND BLACK SOUTH AFRICANS MOST
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UPSET WITH BIKO DEATH CONTINUE TO HOLD MEMORIAL SERVICES AND EVENTS THROUGHOUT COUNTRY. TWO THOUSAND PEOPLE ATTENDED SEPTEMBER 19 PROTEST RALLY AT JOHANNESBURG CITY HALL AND 1000 PERSONS GATHERED AT CAPE TOWN TOWN HALL SAME DATE. CAPE TOWN MEETING INTERRUPTED BY TEAR GAS CANISTER THROWN BY UNKNOWN PERSON.

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3. SEPTEMBER 20 PRESS FOCUSED FOR FIRST TIME EXCLUSIVELY ON FATE OF PETER JONES, BPC OFFICIAL PICKED UP WITH BIKO IN AUGUST AND NOT HEARD FROM SINCE. JONES' MOTHER IN CAPE TOWN HAS VOWED TO FIND HIM.

4. GENERAL MOOD IN BLACK COMMUNITY CONTINUES TO BE ONE OF ANGER AND FRUSTRATION, BUT TOWNSHIPS REMAIN QUIET. A LARGE CROWD IS EXPECTED FOR SEPTEMBER 25 FUNERAL IN KING WILLIAMS TOWN IN LAST FAREWELL TO BLACK NATIONAL HERO. BCP REPORTEDLY HAS EMPHASIZED THAT FUNERAL AND OTHER SERVICES THAT DAY MUST BE PEACEFUL.
BOWDLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, DEATHS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 PRETORIA 4866
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1207277
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: STEVE BIKO\'S DEATH: SITREP AS OF 1600 SEPTEMBER 20
TAGS: PINT, PINS, SF, (BIKO, STEVE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e9930a42-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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